

SODIUM



What is Sodium?

It is a mineral and an essential nutrient. Table Salt is the most common form. It is about 40% sodium.

What is the link between Salt and Sodium?

1/4 teaspoon of salt has 500 mg sodium

1/2 teaspoon of salt has 1000 mg sodium

1 teaspoon of salt has 2000 mg sodium

The minimum daily requirement for sodium is 500 mg, most Americans consume far more than this each day.





How Much Sodium is Enough?

People in the United States generally consume about 4600-5000 mg of sodium each day.

This equals about 2 teaspoons or 11 grams of salt.



10% from natural sodium content of foods



15% from salt added during cooking



75% from sodium added during processing and manufacturing

Salt and sugar are the two most common and most used food preservatives and flavor enhancers in the food industry.



When following a reduced sodium diet:



Look for foods with less than 300 mg of sodium per serving. Read your food label to determine sodium content per serving. For a meal stay under 800 mg of sodium.

Daily intake should be less than 2400 mg of sodium.

